

# NORTHWOODS JOURNAL — AUGUST

*A Free Publication about Enjoying and Protecting Marinette County's Outdoor Life*

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## ***Upcoming Prairie Walk at Harmony Arboretum***



A prairie walk will be held on **Wednesday, August 16, from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** to learn more about our native prairie ecosystems and the plants and animals that live there. It's a beautiful time of year for prairie plants and many are in bloom. Led by Northern Lights Master Gardeners Linda Warren and Adrian Konell, you'll see a great variety of native prairie plants. Wear good walking shoes and insect repellent is recommended.

For information about these programs and more, see the Harmony Arboretum Calendar on page 8, or call the Land & Water Conservation office at 715-732-7780, or visit [www.marinettecounty.com](http://www.marinettecounty.com). The Harmony Arboretum is located 7 miles west of Marinette, ½ mile south of State Highway 64 on County Road E. It's open to the public year-round and free!

## **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Sand Lake Conservation Camp Again a Success**

by Anne Bartels, Information & Education Specialist, LWCD



*2017 Sand Lake Conservation Camp participants*

The 12<sup>th</sup> annual Sand Lake Conservation Camp held at Camp Bird near Crivitz was again a success this year, with 78 campers, representing 24 Wisconsin and 1 Upper Michigan County, and 21 dedicated overnight camp staff. This event is for youth going into 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall and is organized by the Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Division (LWCD). Conservation Camp provides positive educational outdoor experiences, fosters an appreciation for nature, and introduces a variety of natural resources and conservation career opportunities to youth.



*Chip Long, DNR Fish Biologist, demonstrates an electroshocking backpack used for fish studies*

Core topics presented by Marinette County staff included aquatic macroinvertebrates, reptiles & amphibians, and water pollution/conservation. Evening presentations were given by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Biologist Chip Long and Conservation Wardens Tim Werner and Dale Romback. They spoke about their careers, educational backgrounds, and tools they use in their jobs. Naturalists from the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary in Green Bay brought several native Wisconsin animals and discussed wildlife rehabilitation & conservation issues. All-camp cabin competitions included a campfire building contest and "Conservation Jeopardy", a culmination activity designed to cover information from the presenters and programs.



*Campers learn proper archery techniques*

Other available 'camper's choice' activities included wilderness survival skills, canoeing, archery, t-shirt design, outdoor first aid, birdhouse building, leathercraft, nature crafts, mammal tracking, and teambuilding/low-ropes challenge course activities. Choice activities were taught by

Marinette County camp staff and guest speakers. Guest speakers included Tim Werner and Greg Dobratz of the DNR - outdoor recreation safety; Richard and Maryann Clark (Clark's Willowtree Fur, Coleman) - trapping; and Marla Sutton from Vernon County - outdoor first aid session. Timber Wolf Information Network volunteers presented a session on wolf ecology, and staff from the Raptor Education Group, Inc. taught sessions on raptor ecology and rehabilitation.



*Above: Outdoor first aid practice; below, campers learn about trapping*



New this year were presentations by the Bay Area Mounted Search & Rescue (BAMSAR), a local volunteer organization that helps local law enforcement with "missing persons" searches, event crowd control and security. Riders and their horses go through many hours of training annually before they are approved for official duty. Training includes: 1st aid & CPR, radio communication, GPS, maps, horse obstacles, crowd control, parades, and more. Campers learned about what volunteers do, training required, and the types of equipment they use in their duties (below).



*Shelter-building in the Wilderness Survival session (photo by Anna Cisar)*

**Continued next page**



## Another Great Year for the WLWCA State Conservation Camp for 9-12<sup>th</sup> Graders

By Kim Warkentin, WI Land + Water



This year's WI Land+Water Youth Conservation Camp was held June 19-23, 2017 in Manitowish Waters at North Lakeland Discovery Center for students entering 9-12th grades. Over 25 students from across the state and Upper Peninsula attended the week-long camp and had a wonderful time learning about conservation stewardship and having fun. We also had returning campers and graduates from Sand Lake Conservation Camp.

Campers kicked off the week with a canoe lesson, team building exercises and a hike around the North Lakeland Discovery Center learning about native plants and walking through the bogs (below). Other fun activities included a hike to Corrigan's Look-out, a tour of Saxton Harbor and free time scouting for rocks on the shores of Lake Superior. Some campers and counselors braved the chilly waters of Lake Superior and went for a swim.



Campers visited a logging operation and learned about the history of logging and conservation in the North Woods (below). Later that night campers had the opportunity to learn how to tie a fly or make jewelry with their rocks from Lake Superior. Campers got hands on experience learning about native plants and macroinvertebrates and learn about loon ecology.



Campers had the opportunity to canoe out to see a Loon Project, a nest platform made by the Iron County Conservation department (below). Other fun activities included tie-dying camp t-shirts, roasting marshmallows and conservation chats around the camp fire and early morning fishing for the early risers. The last day involved a conservation round-robin learning about healthy soils, making a pollinator box and a pollinator garden project. Camp wrapped up with an afternoon canoe trip down the Little Turtle Flowage where campers navigated a few rapids.



Camp was filled with lots of outdoor activities, learning about conservation stewardship, journaling and making new friends. A special thanks to the County Land & Water Conservation departments that provided scholarships for our campers, all of the resource professionals who spent time talking about their conservation projects and jobs, and to our camp counselors who put a lot of time into developing a fun week of conservation activities.

Best of luck to our graduates and we hope to see many of you back again next year. Thanks for a great week up North! Please 'like' our new Facebook page where you can view more camp photos. For more information about the state conservation camp, contact Kim Warkentin at [kim@wisconsinlandwater.org](mailto:kim@wisconsinlandwater.org), 608-441-2677.



Observing frog metamorphosis at camp  
(photo by Anna Cisar)

### Conservation Camp, continued



Fire-building in the Wilderness Survival session and raccoons along the lake trail (photos by Corey Wagner)



Camper scholarships were provided this year by Glacierland RC&D; Green Bay Chapter of Trout Unlimited; Groundwater Guardians/Calumet County; the Phoenix Falls Chapter of Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association; and the Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association. In addition, Land & Water Conservation Departments in Clark, Oneida, and Washington Counties joined Marinette County in providing scholarships. Sponsors' and donors' dedication to youth programs like Sand Lake Conservation Camp is much appreciated. Thank you to everyone who helped with Sand Lake Conservation Camp 2017 and for making it a successful event!



Raptor Education Group staff talks about the barn owl

For more information about Sand Lake Conservation Camp, please visit [www.marinettecounty.com](http://www.marinettecounty.com) or contact Anne Bartels, Information & Education Specialist, at 715-732-7784 or [abartels@marinettecounty.com](mailto:abartels@marinettecounty.com). Tentative dates for 2018 are June 20-22.

### Like us on Facebook!

The Marinette County Land Information Department is now on Facebook. This is where you can find out facts about nature, Wisconsin wildlife and birds, the environment, programs we have to offer and other good information. To find our Facebook page, go to the Marinette County website at [www.marinettecounty.com](http://www.marinettecounty.com), and then go into "Departments" (on the left hand side of the main page). Then click on "Land Information". There you will find a Facebook logo that you can click on and it will bring you to our page. The other way you can find us is to log in to Facebook and search for our page. Please type in "Marinette County Land Information Department" and the page should pop right up (Facebook may have you type in some letter/numbers as a security precaution). **And before you leave our page, don't forget to "Like Us"!**





## Area Farmers' & Flea Markets

### AT THE Farmers Market



**Crivitz Flea & Farmers' Market:** Open every Thursday from May 25 through August 31, 8am-2pm across from St. Mary's Catholic Church at 800 Henriette Avenue. Wide variety of vendors with handmade arts & crafts, antiques, collectables and much more! Contact Barbara Uhl at 715-854-2030 to rent space by day or season up to first market date. Bonus Flea Market – July 4, 8am – 2pm.



**Stephenson Island Marinette Market:** Will be at Stephenson Island, north on Hwy. 41 off of the Interstate Bridge between WI & MI border. 2-6 pm on Fridays only, no Saturdays. For more information, call 715-732-4333.

**Menominee County Farm & Food Exchange:** Saturdays 9 am-noon outside by the Jack's Fresh Market grocery store at 1207 8<sup>th</sup> Ave., Menominee MI (just over Interstate Bridge to the right). On Facebook or call 906-639-3377.

**Menominee Historic Downtown Farmers Market:** June 3 to September 30, Saturdays 9am-noon. Located at 818 1<sup>st</sup> Street (near the library) in Menominee, MI. Contact Lucy Pier, 906-863-8718 for more information. Online at [www.menomineefarmersmarket.com](http://www.menomineefarmersmarket.com).



For more information about area markets, visit Marinette County's tourism website at [www.therealnorth.com](http://www.therealnorth.com) or call the Mariette/Menominee Area Chamber of Commerce at 715-735-6681.

## Northwoods Journal Online

Would you like to read current issues of the Northwoods Journal online? Go to [www.marinettecounty.com](http://www.marinettecounty.com) and click "Northwoods Journal" in the Quick Links menu at the right of the page. We can send an e-mail reminder when each new issue is posted online. Contact Anne Bartels, LWCD Information & Education Specialist: [abartels@marinettecounty.com](mailto:abartels@marinettecounty.com) or call 715-732-7784 for more information.

## 2017 NLMGA Garden Walk a Hit!



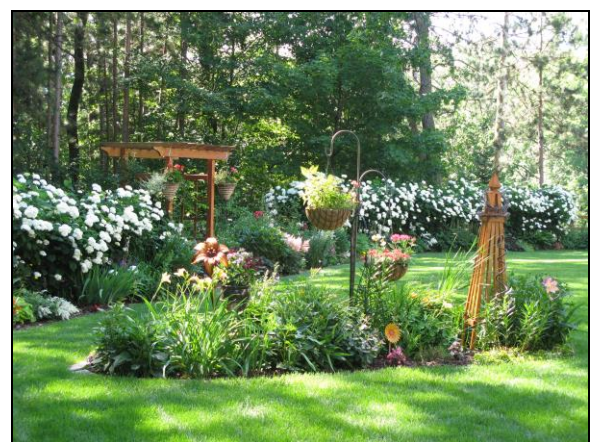
The 7<sup>th</sup> annual Garden Walk, sponsored by Northern Lights Master Gardeners (NLMGA) and UW - Extension, was again a success this year. Over 120 visitors participated and many volunteers helped at each location. Harmony Arboretum and six private homeowners' gardens were featured. These gardens were in Wausaukee, Crivitz, Peshtigo, Marinette and Menominee. The walk is a self-guided tour and the gardens could be visited in any order.

Private gardens featured included:

- Julie Lindquist with the rustic look of a log home and the charm of a country garden and beautiful view of Lake Noquebay
- Joe and Gina Nelson offered a surprise secret garden beyond the cedars
- Thomas and Cyndie Russel provided sun and river views along the Peshtigo River
- Vilas and Cheri Schroeder have a 30-year-old country shade garden that is still evolving
- Gerald and Flossie Tanguay and their Michigan Century Farm and its field of beauty just outside the Menominee city limits
- A mystery garden was located within Menominee City limits, with beautiful water features and shade & woodland gardens

And of course, Harmony Arboretum on County Road E in Peshtigo always offers a new interest for all visitors. UW-Extension staff and Northern Lights Master Gardeners were on hand to answer visitors' gardening questions at each location.

At right are some photos from this year's Garden Walk, and is continued on page 5. Thank you to all who hosted, volunteered and participated!



See sidebar on page 5 for more beautiful Garden Walk photos!

## Marinette County Fair in Wausaukee August 24-27!



Stop in for an old-fashioned good time! The fair features 4-H and open class exhibits, merchant's exhibits, music, midway entertainment, truck and tractor pulls and the demo derby. Held at the Wausaukee Fair grounds, admission is \$5 per day or \$15 for a weekend pass (Advance Weekend Passes are \$12.00). \$2 Admission for the day on Sunday August 30th (Family Day).



Wristband nights for the carnival are Thurs. and

Fri. from 2-5pm at \$15 per wristband & Thurs. & Fri. 6-10pm at \$20; Sun. Noon-4pm at \$20. Gates open 9am-10pm. \$12 advance season tickets available at Witt's Piggly Wiggly - Crivitz, Sal's - Wausaukee, Associated Bank - Coleman, Lee's Family Foods -Peshtigo, Marinette/Menominee Chamber of Commerce - Marinette, or from any Fair Board member. Children 5 and under are free.



For more information, visit [www.marinettecountyfair.com](http://www.marinettecountyfair.com) or call 920-737-9509. We're also on Facebook!





## The Blossoming Health and Academic Benefits of School Gardens

From <http://www.cnn.com/2015/08/14/health/healthy-school-gardens/index.html>



Many of the kids who go to John J. Pershing Elementary School in Dallas do not spend much time outdoors. They live in what some would describe as unsafe neighborhoods and their parents often do not let them go outside and play. "They look at life through a window," said Margie Hernandez, the school's principal. But these kids are at least experiencing the great outdoors when they are at school.

Four years ago, Pershing built a garden that has grown to include a pond and four chickens. Teachers take students into the garden at least once a week for class or just for a walk, to pick some basil or water the chickens. When they are in the garden, "children who normally would not speak or raise their hand are now engaging in a lesson without being prompted," Hernandez said. And the effects seem to last after they leave the garden - the students are scoring better on standardized tests and are just more excited in general about school.

Pershing is one of many schools in low-income neighborhoods in Texas that are partnering with a program called *REAL School Gardens*. This fall, the program, which started about 10 years ago, will be bringing a garden to its 100th school throughout the country. *REAL School Gardens* helps schools plan and build their garden based on students' designs. Although most gardens -- unlike Pershing's -- do not have chickens, all of them have vegetable beds and walkways, and most of them have something for shade, such as a gazebo. The program works with teachers at the school for three years to help them adapt their lesson plans to the garden environment.



"The guiding principle is that if we can get kids more engaged with learning, there would be a better foundation for academic success later on," said Jeanne McCarty, CEO of *REAL School Gardens*. "Kids are more engaged in real world, hands-on learning, particularly at the elementary school level," she added.

Teachers at schools that partner with *REAL School Gardens* report that their students seem more engaged in lessons. There are also short-term signs of academic success. Three years after getting school gardens, between 12% and 15% more children in these schools passed standardized tests.

The program has also found that about twice as many teachers report being satisfied with their job after their school cultivates its garden. "We expected that students would be more engaged, but as a result it was re-engaging teachers with the profession of teaching. It was exciting and surprising and valuable," said McCarty, adding that teacher turnover is a big problem in urban school districts.

About 27% of public elementary schools have a school garden, according to research by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. However they are less common in low-income areas, where *REAL School Gardens* is focusing, and in non-urban areas.



School gardens have been picking up in popularity over the last 15 years. "I think it's a shift, it's a realization of childhood obesity issues and gardening as a really good way to address those issues through exercise, changes in diet and nutrition, and [also] a focus on improving academic performance," said Kathryn S. Orvis, associate professor of youth development and agricultural education at Purdue University. In addition to the academic gains, studies suggest that students who have a school garden have a better attitude about vegetables, consume more fruits and veggies, and get more exercise.

"Up until now, school gardens have been grass roots," Orvis said. Before programs such as *REAL School Gardens*, schools had to raise their own money or get grants from the National Gardening Association, she said. These programs "would help overcome some of the barriers of getting a school garden in," Ortiz said. One of the major barriers is building and maintaining these gardens year-round and year-after-year, which can require commitment from teachers and parents as well as help from gardeners in the community, she added.

Another challenge is that "teachers are afraid to step out of the box and teach material in a different way, even though we have research that shows that ... it is more impactful learning," Ortiz said. At Pershing Elementary, students gather data on plants they then analyze and graph, and write about their experiences in the garden. "[Even] a reading circle outside is different. It awakens your senses," Hernandez said. Fourth-graders even learned about history by growing native plants that early settlers would have grown for food.



The garden is the first place that students want to go when they get to school, Hernandez said. One student even showed up early for school this week, sad to learn they had to wait until classes start on August 24, Hernandez said. She attributes a lot of that enthusiasm to the garden. "They have a sense of purpose, they have something to take care of," she said.

For more information on School Gardens, visit:

- [www.realschoolgardens.org](http://www.realschoolgardens.org)
- <http://wischoolgardens.org> - WI School Garden Network
- [www.farmtoschool.org](http://www.farmtoschool.org) - National Farm to School Network
- <https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/f2s/school-garden> - WI Dept. of Public Instruction School Gardens
- <http://www.csgn.org/why-school-gardens> Collective School Garden Network

## T.O.A.D. Environmental Education Program Busy this Summer

In addition to coordinating the Sand Lake Conservation Camp in June (page 1), Information & Education Specialist Anne Bartels is busy with other programs during summertime. She visits day care facilities & libraries, has a 'Hands-On Nature Table' at public events like Logging Fest and the Community Kids' Day at the Boys & Girls Club, and will participate in the upcoming Marinette Recreation Department Kids' Day in August. Then school-year program planning starts again!



Above: Hands-on Nature Table at Marinette's Logging Fest  
Below: On a nature scavenger hunt with Kids R' Us daycare



Crivitz Youth, Inc. learned about herptiles, went on a 'herps hunt', then had fun in the Children's Garden



## Hands-on Nature Table

**YES, you can touch & feel this stuff!**

*Be gentle, please.*

Teaching Outdoor Awareness & Discovery - T.O.A.D.  
Marinette County Land & Water Conservation



Visitors explore the Hands-On Nature Table at the Boys & Girls' Club Community Kids' Day





## Dockside Hunters - Fishing Spiders Stalk Prey on Land, Water & Below the Surface

By Don Blegen, April 1999 WI Natural Resources Magazine  
From <http://dnr.wi.gov/wnrmag/html/stories/1999/apr99/spider.htm>



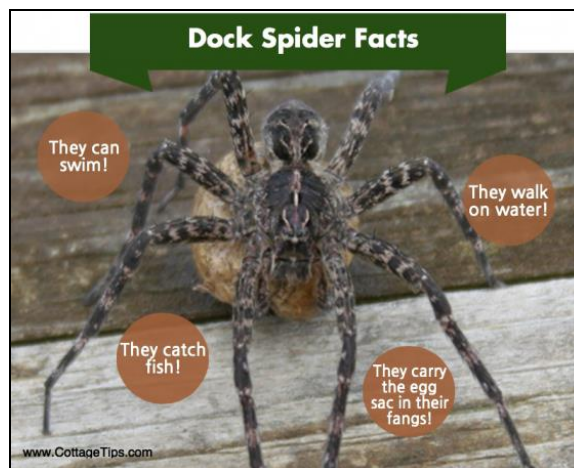
After a long afternoon pursuing the elusive walleye, we were headed back to the cabin and supper. Corey cut the outboard and coasted the boat into the dock. The dock supports were made of skinned pine logs faded white by weathering which were anchored by rock-filled cribs. Two huge, very dark spiders stood out against the white logs. Each was easily the size of a child's hand. Corey, afflicted perhaps with a touch of arachnophobia, looked them over as the boat drifted in. "Disgusting!" he muttered under his breath. The spiders seemed out of place here in the North Country. Spiders that big should be in some tropical rain forest or maybe a desert. As the boat bumped the dock, one of the spiders scuttled out of sight around a log, like a squirrel around a tree. The other one leaped to the water and danced across the surface to a clump of reeds and disappeared. They were fishing spiders.



Fishing spiders (or raft spiders as they are called in Europe) should not be confused with water striders. Water striders are insects, and fishing spiders are arachnids. Both are predators, and both can skim across the water as if it were a solid surface. But fishing spiders are much, much bigger, and leave a much more lasting impression. People who have had a good look at a fishing spider are impressed and tend to use superlatives when describing their encounters. Like any good tale of a missed buck or lost lunger, there is an inevitable temptation to exaggerate. Though fishing spiders reach tarantula proportions in many stories, in fact, a big female will barely exceed three inches in legspan – not as big as a tarantula, but plenty big enough to make a very hairy memory.

Several species are found around the northern hemisphere. At least three species (all belonging to genus *Dolomedes*) are commonly found in Wisconsin, along streams and on ponds and lakes. They may stray some distance from water, moving over shoreline and emergent vegetation. To a fishing spider, docks and bridges are just another kind of tree, suitable for hunting food and a quick escape route from enemies. The spiders can run down prey on land or solid surfaces like any hunting spider. They can also chase prey on the water's surface and even dive beneath the surface to capture prey or escape enemies.

Each of the spider's eight legs is tipped with a hydrophobic fluid that repels water. Touched on the water surface, the foot forms a tiny depression or dimple; but it does not penetrate the water. By kicking the eight dimples with powerful strokes, the spider skims across the surface. By scuttling down the stem of a cattail or other water plant, the spider can even escape or hunt below the surface. The hairs of its abdomen trap a silvery bubble of air so the spider can breathe as if it were wearing an aqualung. This bubble even functions like a primitive gill, absorbing dissolved oxygen and dissipating carbon dioxide. *The spider can stay beneath the surface for more than half an hour.*







Fishing spiders do not build webs to catch their prey, although they may use their silk to make egg cases for incubating their babies and protecting them for some time after hatching. Unlike some web-weaving spiders that are nearly blind, fishing spiders have excellent vision. Their eight eyes pick up the slightest movement, have good depth perception, and function well in both bright and dim light. The fishing spider hunts the frontiers of two very different habitats: water and land. Its unusual adaptations for moving and breathing allow it to function efficiently in both environments, tapping into food sources and eluding enemies.

The abundant insect life hatching from the water – mayflies, caddis flies, stoneflies, etc. – are vulnerable to a fishing spider skimming across the surface. It will occasionally eat a small fish or tadpole. Yet scampering up a reed (or dock support) will take the spider out of reach of a hungry bass. We admire the fishing spider's versatility with an undercurrent of fear and repulsion, given its huge size. In our hypocrisy, we deem it is OK for vertebrates like us to eat an invertebrate. But here is an invertebrate that occasionally eats vertebrates. That's a bit chilling. Or, as Corey muttered under his breath, "Disgusting!"



For more information about these interesting – albeit creepy – critters, visit the websites below:

-  <http://bugguide.net>
-  <http://www.spiders.us/species/filter/wisconsin>
-  <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/06/140618-spiders-fish-predator-ecology-water-weird-science/>
-  <http://www.cottagetips.com/tips/facts-about-dock-spiders/>

### Garden Walk, continued from page 3



### Northwoods Journal Volume 15, Issue 3

The *Northwoods Journal* focuses on various outdoor recreation opportunities and local environmental topics to inform readers about natural resource use, management, and recreation in Marinette County.

#### Published in cooperation by:

- Marinette Co. Land & Water Conservation
- Marinette Co. Parks & Outdoor Recreation
- Marinette Co. UW-Extension

*UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA. To ensure equal access, please make requests for reasonable accommodations as soon as possible prior to the scheduled program. If you need this material in another format, please contact the UW-Extension office at 715-732-7510.*

Please send comments to:  
Marinette County LWCD  
1926 Hall Ave, Marinette, WI 54143  
[abartels@marinettecounty.com](mailto:abartels@marinettecounty.com)





Second Elk Herd Release in Jackson County

From the April 2017 edition of *Wisconsin Counties* magazine & Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (elk information website)

After successful winter trapping and summer calving in year two of elk reintroduction efforts, 50 elk were released from the holding pen into the surrounding Jackson County forests. The arrival of the second elk herd from Kentucky is part of a five-year elk reintroduction program being conducted by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR).



Thirty-nine elk arrived at the Jackson County holding pen, but numbers grew as pregnant cows gave birth in the summer of 2016. “The second year of Jackson County elk reintroduction efforts has been exceptional with the arrival of several new calves born in the pen,” said Kevin Wallenfang, DNR elk ecologist and elk reintroduction coordinator. “We have wrapped up our efforts here in Jackson County with the release of the second herd. We’ll now focus the next two to three years on adding animals to the northern herd.”



This year’s arrivals from Kentucky received 24-hour care and monitoring during the required 120 day quarantine period. Health testing results, as well as timing of when the last calf was born, determined how long the elk were in the holding pen. Each animal, including newborn calves, has been fitted with a tracking collar to monitor movement and survival after release.

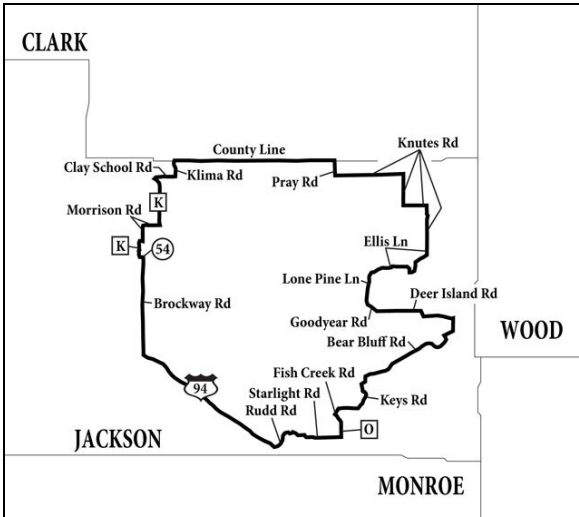


In year one of reintroduction efforts, 23 elk were released in eastern Jackson County. Currently, 13 of those elk remain alive and at least one wild birth has been confirmed from them. The elk are being observed and enjoyed by locals on a regular basis, and visitors from outside the area are traveling to Jackson County in hopes of viewing them in the wild.

Primary elk reintroduction partners, including Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Jackson County Wildlife Fund, the Ho-Chunk Nation, and others would like to thank the public for their continued support and cooperation. The public is being asked to continue to avoid the general vicinity of the holding pen, and remain watchful when driving in the area to avoid vehicle collision with the elk.

“It’s been a great effort getting them here, and now we want to do everything in our power to ensure the herd’s success,” says Kurt Flack, regional director for Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. “We ask that folks give them their space until they settle in.”

With elk translocation now complete in Jackson County, the remaining two to three years of the project will focus on delivering up to 75 Kentucky elk to northern Wisconsin where they will join the original herd established in 1995. That herd continues to see slow but steady growth and is estimated to contain approximately 165 elk at this time. That estimate includes approximately 35 that were expected to be born this spring.



Following another mild winter in 2015-16, winter losses were estimated to be low. To receive email updates regarding current translocation efforts, visit [www.dnr.wi.gov](http://www.dnr.wi.gov) and click on the email icon near the bottom of the page titled “subscribe for updates for DNR topics,” then follow the prompts and select the “elk in Wisconsin” and “wildlife projects” distribution lists.

In March 2017, twenty-eight Kentucky elk arrived at their new home in the Flambeau River State Forest in Sawyer County. Once released into the wild, the “class of 2017” will join the current Clam Lake herd. This herd resides primarily in Ashland, Price, and Sawyer counties, and was reintroduced to the area in 1995 from Michigan. Adding additional elk from Kentucky to the herd is expected to provide a boost to herd growth and introduce new genetics. These efforts mark the third year of a five-year elk reintroduction program being conducted with assistance from multiple partners.

Elk (*Cervus elaphus*) once ranged over most of North America and throughout Wisconsin. They were extirpated from Wisconsin in the mid- to late-1800s due to overhunting and a rapid decline in habitat with the onset of European settlement. Historic records show elk once inhabited at least 50 of the state’s 72 counties. An attempt at bringing elk back to the state in the 1930s failed because of poaching and the last four elk were reportedly killed in 1948. Today, however, most of the suitable elk habitat is in the northern and central forest regions of the state.

For more information regarding elk in Wisconsin, visit [www.dnr.wi.gov](http://www.dnr.wi.gov) and search keyword “elk.”



‘Kids’ Don’t Float’ Lifejacket Loaner Program at a Boat Landing Near You



The “Kid’s Don’t Float Life Jacket Loaner” program is a cooperative program between the Department of Natural Resources and various partners, in which a life jacket loaner station is placed at boat landings around Wisconsin. WDNR started the “Kid’s Don’t Float” Loaner Life Jacket Program in 2012. WDNR provides materials, signage and personal flotation devices while the partners are responsible for securing permission from boat landing owners to place the structure, constructing, maintaining, over-winter storage and periodic checking of the station for damage, theft or other issues.

Locally, community members of Safe Kids Marinette County, in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, started the “Kids Don’t Float” Life Jacket Loaner Program. Safe Kids Marinette County is a local coalition that works to prevent unintentional injuries and deaths among children and youth. Local community members volunteered their time to monitor the stations.



In July 2016, life jacket loaner station stations were placed at two separate boat landings in Marinette County. The first life jacket loaner station was placed at the boat landing on Boat Landing Road on Lake Noquebay in the Town of Middle Inlet. The second life jacket loaner station was placed at the Stephenson Park Ramp at the High Falls Reservoir on the Peshtigo River in the Town of Stephenson.

These life jacket loaner stations contain life jackets for children and adults as well as throwable personal flotation devices (PFD) for anyone to borrow before they launch their boat. Life jackets and PFDs can be used for the day at no cost. People are simply asked to hang the wet life jackets on hooks provided before they leave. The life jacket loaner stations were built by the Peshtigo Tech Ed class along with assistance from Marinette County Work Restitution program participants.

If you have questions about this program, contact Marinette County Public Health at 715-732-7670.

To learn more about what types of life jackets PFD are required when boating, go to [dnr.wi.gov/topic/boat/pfd.html](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/boat/pfd.html).





## Safe Burning – Burn Responsibly or Don't Burn At All!

From <http://dnr.wi.gov>

Debris burning is the number one cause of wildfires in Wisconsin. Using fire as a method to dispose of vegetative yard waste isn't the only option. While debris burning is legal in most places, let's face it...it's unsafe, unhealthy and a nuisance. If you choose to burn, follow these simple guidelines to ensure you are burning **SAFELY**:

### Before Burning:

- Find alternatives to burning debris *before* deciding to burn
- Obtain proper burn permits and follow any restrictions
- Comply with local ordinances that may be more restrictive than state law
- Make certain you are only burning legal materials (*turn over for a complete list*)
- Keep an eye on the weather and avoid burning under windy conditions
- Make certain the area adjacent to the fire is free of all flammables

### During Burning:

- Have a water source and firefighting tools handy
- Keep the size of the fire small and manageable
- Maintain a mineral soil firebreak around the burn area
- Never leave your fire unattended
- If weather conditions change for the worst, put the fire out. If your fire escapes, dial 911 immediately!

### After Burning:

- Make sure the burn is completely out before leaving
- Use lots of water, down, stir and repeat until cold
- Go back and check again later for any remaining smoke or embers
- Fun fact: use cold ashes from your burn as a bed for your garden. It makes a great fertilizer!

### What can I burn with my DNR burning permit?

#### Allowed:

Brush, Leaves, Pine needles, Grass, Clean wood, Unrecyclable paper\*, Unrecyclable cardboard\*

\* Recycling of clean paper and cardboard is required by law!

#### NOT Allowed:

Garbage, Plastics, Shingles, Foam, Structures, Furniture, Wire, Metal, Electronics, Vinyl products, Rubber products, Oil-based products, Painted, Stained or treated wood

### Alternatives to Burning

**REUSE** - Find someone else who can use it, have a yard sale or donate. Bring reusable shopping bags to the grocery store. Leave grass clippings on the lawn; they contain nutrients.

**RECYCLE** - Separate newspaper, magazines, cardboard, paper, glass, plastic and aluminum, steel or tin cans.



**DISPOSE** - Discard non-recyclable waste materials at a licensed landfill.

**COMPOST** - Mulch or collect leaves and plant clippings for composting or move brush piles in the woods for wildlife habitat.

**CHIP** - Collect brush and clean wood to make mulch or decorative chips, or use as heating fuel in fireplaces.

**WAIT** - Avoid burning in the spring. The safest time to burn is when the ground is completely snow-covered. Throw a tarp over legal materials and wait until it snows.

### For a DNR burn permit or to check today's burning restrictions:

[dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) (keyword "fire")  
1-888-wis-burn (947-2876)

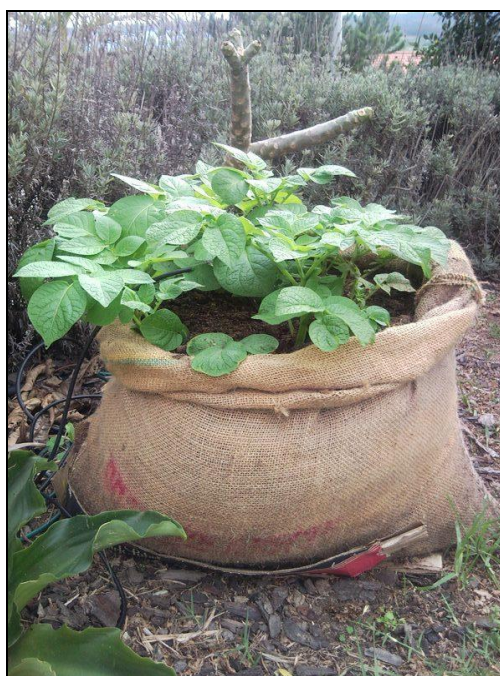
## Notes on Growing Sweet Potatoes in Northern Wisconsin

Scott Reuss, Marinette & Florence County UW-Extension



The first and most important aspect to remember about growing sweet potatoes in Northern Wisconsin is that they absolutely need the highest amount of sunlight and heat that we are able to provide them. In addition, they need a long frost-free period (minimum of 120 days, 140 and higher is much better).

These factors combine to make them challenging in our environment. We can manage them in raised beds or mounds, under clear or black plastic, or in containers (below) to help with heating the soil and the plants, but some years we simply don't have enough growing degree days. Another growing option is the use of low tunnels (think mini-greenhouses over the rows made with plastic and tubing).



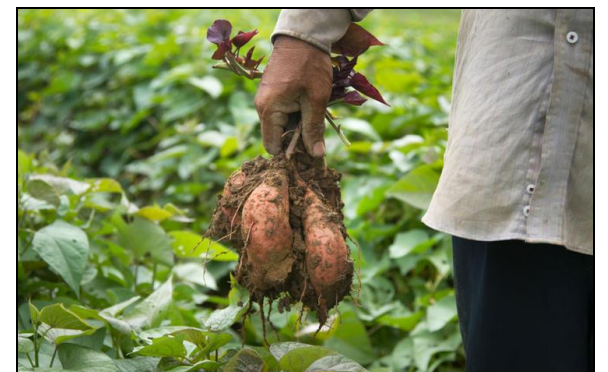
Whatever the growth environment is going to be, getting the plants started early is paramount. If you are ordering via mail or computer, consider paying more for started plants, or having the slips shipped earlier than they should be so that you can pot them up yourself and get them started prior to transplant into the garden. If buying locally, do the same, but know that your selection will likely be limited.



A number of sweet potato cultivars are known for somewhat shorter growing seasons and include *O'Henry*, *Beuregard*, *Vardaman*, and others. Some such as *Georgia Jet* don't sound like they should work up in our area, but actually will often do as well as any other cultivar.



Avoiding chilling injury and conducting proper curing after harvest are two things that novice sweet potato growers tend to learn the hard way. Fifty degrees Fahrenheit soil temperatures can start to cause injury to the roots, so we cannot leave them in the ground too long in the fall. Certainly, if the leaves & vines get frosted, you absolutely need to get the roots harvested and into a proper curing environment as soon as possible.



Curing is necessary for both flavor development and storage potential of sweet potato. The starch to sugar conversion processes that occur during proper curing allow for full flavor development. Further, the skin thickens slightly and recovers from bruises and nicks/scrapes, allowing for longer-term storage.

- <http://ozaukeeemastergardeners.org/5-Fact%20Sheets/Vegetables/SweetPotato.pdf>
- <https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/sweet-potato-educator-handout.pdf>
- <https://learningstore.uwex.edu/Assets/pdfs/A2801.pdf> - Growing Vegetables at Home





## Area Events Calendar

- Until Labor Day
- AREA MUSEUMS OPEN. Marinette & Menominee County Historical Museums, Peshtigo Fire Museum, Amberg Historical Complex, Busville Doll Museum (Crivitz), Land of Oz Museum (Wausaukee) & West Shore Fishing Museum (M-35 north of Menominee, MI). Visit <http://therealnorth.com/index.php/features/museums> or call the Marinette/Menominee Area Chamber of Commerce at (715) 735-6681.
- May-September
- CRIVITZ FLEA AND FARMERS MARKET, every Thursday from May 25, 2017 through August 31, 2017, 8am-2pm across from the St. Mary’s Catholic Church at 800 Henriette Avenue. Wide variety of vendors with handmade arts & crafts, antiques, collectables and much more! Contact Barbara Uhl at 715-854-2030 to rent space by day or season up to first market date.
- June-October
- STEPHENSON ISLAND FARMERS MARKET, Marinette Farmer’s Market will be at Stephenson Island, located North on Hwy 41, off the Interstate Bridge between the WI and MI borders. 2pm-6pm on Fridays No Saturdays. For more information, please call 715/732-4333.
- June-Sept.
- FORGOTTEN FIRE WINERY SUMMER CONCERT SERIES. Join the fun every Saturday in June, July, August and September for the outdoor concerts. Music starts at Noon and ends at 4 pm. No carry-ins please. Visit [www.forgottenfirewinery.com/events](http://www.forgottenfirewinery.com/events) for a full listing of artists performing during the 2017 season. In Peshtigo.
- Now through Aug. 19
- ART EXHIBIT: THE BEAUTY OF MENOMINEE, MARINETTE AND PESHTIGO. On display at Spies Public Library, Menominee. Sponsored by GFWC Menominee Woman’s Club and the Spies Public Library.
- Now through Aug. 31
- ART IN BLOOM. Held by Menominee Area Arts Council (MAAC) has named this year’s theme as Art in Bloom consisting of artwork with flowers and accompanied by live flowers. Currently on display at Farmers and Merchant Bank and Trust.
- Aug. 1-31
- YMCA YOUTH FLAG FOOTBALL LEAGUE. Now considered an NFL Flag League. Held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for grades K-3 at the Menominee YMCA field. Team practices will be held at the discretion of the coaches. Cost is \$35 for members and \$54 for the general public. Registration deadline is July 9. People may call the YMCA for more information, 906-863-9983.
- Aug. 4-5 & 11-12
- SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE. The Salvation Army, Westlund Bus Lines and Walmart are teaming together to further the efforts of gathering needed school supplies and new clothing for area children. Held from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Volunteers are needed. For more information, people may call The Salvation Army 715-735-7448.
- Aug. 5
- KIDS DIG IT. Held from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Harmony Arboretum. Features guests include the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary’s Traveling Birds of Prey exhibit. Attendees will learn about and experience wildlife, insects, soil and plants. No admission charged. Any and all ages welcome. For more information, people may visit [www.marinette.uwex.edu](http://www.marinette.uwex.edu).
- Aug. 5 and Sept. 2
- FLEA MARKET AND CRAFTS. Held at Veteran’s Park in downtown Stephenson. One table space \$5, two-five tables \$10, over five tables \$20. No reservations needed. For more information, people may call 906-788-4750. Proceeds benefit Stephenson Athletic Booster Club.
- Aug. 7-10
- VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CAMPING. Held from 5:30-8 p.m., at Bethel Lutheran Church, 1309 14th Ave., Menominee. Kids in preschool through fifth grade are invited for games, crafts, songs and stories. A free family supper will take place from 5:30-6 each night. VBS will conclude on Thursday with a community potluck picnic at Red Arrow Park. Advance registration is encouraged by calling Bethel Lutheran, 906-863-2066 or Zion Lutheran, 715-735-7898. Everyone is welcome.
- Aug. 7-11
- BRITISH MULTI-SPORTS CAMP. UW-Marinette will host a Challenger Multi-Sports Camp for a weeklong, half-day or full-day option. Sports covered include tag rugby, cricket, soccer, Rounders, kickball, netball and team handball. For ages 5-14, the camp runs 9 a.m.-noon and costs \$145. For ages 7-14, the full-day camp will be held 9 a.m.-4 p.m., with a supervised hour break for lunch from noon to 1 p.m., costs \$195. The camp will be in the fields behind the UW-Marinette Field house, 1125 University Drive, Marinette. To register, people may visit [www.marinette.uwc.edu/ce](http://www.marinette.uwc.edu/ce) or call 715-735-4300, ext. 4342.
- Aug. 8
- CONCERTS IN THE PARK-MARINETTE. The Sapphires will play at Stephenson Island from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Aug. 8-24
- COMPUTER CODING CAMP, PARTS 1 AND 2. Held at the Stephenson Public Library, Marinette, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Part 1 will run from 1 to 2:15 p.m., and Part 2 from 2:30 to 3:45 p.m. Children must be between the ages of 8 to 12, and able to read independently. Completion of Part 1 is a pre-requisite for Part 2. Space is limited; people must register by July 15. People may visit the library’s Facebook at Stephenson Public Library, visit <http://marinettecountylibraries.org>, under the Marinette page, or call 715-732-7570.
- Aug. 10
- ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL REGISTRATION. St. John Lutheran School, will hold registration at N1926 Church Rd., at 6 p.m. K3 and K4 class sizes are limited. People may contact principal Lance List to pre-register, 715-582-4565 (school), 715-927-5478 (cell), or [school@stjohnpeshtigo.org](mailto:school@stjohnpeshtigo.org). People may visit [www.stjohnpeshtigo.org/school](http://www.stjohnpeshtigo.org/school) for more information.
- Aug. 11
- BABYSITTING SAFETY COURSE. The YMCA is offering American Health Institute’s Child and Babysitting Safety course for boys and girls ages 10-21, at the Marinette-Menominee YMCA from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Cost is \$50, which includes lunch and certification. People may call 906-863-9983 to register, or email for more information, [ivys@mmymca.org](mailto:ivys@mmymca.org).
- Aug. 12
- MAKE & TAKE CRAFT CLASS. Held from 1:30-4 p.m. at the West Shore Fishing Museum, 15 miles north of Menominee on M-35. Create a clay pot lighthouse; all materials provided. Fee \$10. Pre-registration required by July 12. Call 906-282-8333. Enter the museum grounds through Bailey Park.
- Aug. 12
- SILVER CLIFF FIRE AND RESCUE AUXILIARY PICNIC. Held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Silver Cliff Park on County Trunk C. Event to include raffles, Country Store, adult and children’s games, and music. Chicken booyah, brats, hamburgers, French fries, corn on the cob, snack shack, and more will be available. Preceded by a parade at 10 a.m., with community floats, antique vehicles and area fire departments.
- Aug. 12
- M&M AUTO CLUB 2017 SHOW. Held at Menominee’s historic waterfront off 1st Street by the band shell. Free to public. For those interested in showing a unique vehicle, 20 years or older. Registration is \$5, 8-11 a.m. Show is from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Participant judging. More than 60 trophies awarded. People who wish to become a sponsor or a member may contact William Chartrand, 715-582-0347, for more information.
- Aug. 13
- PIE AND ICE-CREAM SOCIAL. Held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the SS. Joseph & Edward Catholic Church, W3308 County Trunk G, Porterfield. For more information, people may call 715-789-2254.
- Aug. 17
- CONCERTS IN THE PARK-MENOMINEE. The Community Jazz Ensemble will play in the bandshell from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Aug. 26
- COLOR BLAST FUN RUN. Sponsored by the Healthy Youth Coalition, at 8 a.m., at Menominee High School. Cost is \$25 for adults, and \$15 for participants 17 and younger.
- Sept. 3
- ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL. Held from noon to 4 p.m., at the West Shore Fishing Museum, 15 miles north of Menominee on M-35. Community picnic with brats and dogs, famous homemade pies, ice cream, root beer, live music, kids’ games and raffles. Explore three museum buildings, gift shop, five commercial fishing boats, nature trails and beautiful gardens and grounds. Enter the museum grounds through Bailey Park.
- Sept. 7
- QUILTERS GROUP. Starts at 8 a.m., Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in the church hall, the corner of University Drive and Pierce Avenue, Marinette. The quilter’s group schedule is the first and third Thursday mornings each month. The work includes jobs for a variety of talents, sewing and non-sewing. The finished quilts are donated to local charities and the Lutheran World Relief. Donations of material are also welcome. For more information, people may call Our Savior’s Church office, 715-735-3101.
- Sept. 9
- FALL PLANT SALE. Held at Harmony Arboretum from 9 a.m.-noon. Purchase zone-hardy plants donated and grown by Northern Lights Master Gardener volunteers. All proceeds support educational programming at Harmony Arboretum. For more information, people may visit [www.marinette.uwex.edu](http://www.marinette.uwex.edu).

## Harmony Arboretum Schedule of Events



All programs are free and at Harmony Arboretum unless otherwise stated. For more information, call UW-Extension at 715-732-7510 or Land & Water Conservation at 715-732-7780.

**Aug. 5 - Kids Dig it! 10:00 am - 1:00 pm:** Join in the fun and learning of this youth-oriented day of exploration. Featured guests include the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary’s traveling Birds of Prey exhibit. Attendees will learn about and experience wildlife, insects, soil, and plants.

**Aug. 15 - Summer Squash Spectacular 6 - 8 pm:** Summer squash are one of the most nutritious and versatile vegetables. Experience the surprising taste differences between the various types and cultivars of summer squash in many different recipes, and also learn more about managing these magnificent veggies.

**Aug. 16 - Prairie Walk 6:00 - 8:00 pm:** Stroll the 17-acre prairie at Harmony Arboretum with local native plant enthusiasts. Spend an evening learning what constitutes a prairie and why people are creating or restoring them.

**Aug. 31 - Harvesting & Storing Tree Fruits 6:00 - 7:30 pm:** We’ll answer the two most common questions about this topic: How do I know when to pick the fruit on this tree? How can I store them to keep them in great eating shape? Along the way, we’ll also tell about seed identification and other topics.

## What’s New at the Harmony Arboretum?



The Master Gardeners built a new bigger shade house with space for presentations and seating areas. They are in the process of putting in paving stones and vegetation. The Children’s Garden hedge maze has a new pergola to cover the ‘tea party’ area and will soon have new chairs and table.



The shortgrass prairie (below) and bird habitat have grown in since last year and pathways have been made for visitors.

